

SECRET

25X1

8 May 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 28 April 1987 HPSCI Briefing

CIA Briefers:

ADDI Helgerson

Congressmen Present:

Stokes, Hyde, Cheney, Daniel,
Dwyer, Beilenson, Kennelly, and
McHugh

Subjects Briefed:

Nicaragua: Update on the War
Central America: The Arias Plan
PLO: Developments at the
National Council
Philippines: Election Prospects
Sri Lanka, South Africa, and
Greece: Recent Incidents
of Violence

Questions/Answers:

Stokes

25X1

SECRET

25X1

25X1

SECRET

25X1

SUBJECT: 28 April 1987 HPSCI Briefing

25X1

QUESTION: Has the Newsweek article on the Philippines Finding had much of an impact in that country?

ANSWER: While it has been in the Philippine press, there has been no profound impact. I haven't heard much lately. I'll get back to you on this.

25X1

Daniel

QUESTION: Will Enrile win a Senate seat?

ANSWER: Probably.

QUESTION: Would that be detrimental to us?

ANSWER: Probably not. I am hopeful that Enrile would vote to keep the US bases.

QUESTION: What is the position of Aquino's Chief of Staff?

ANSWER: I haven't seen much more than what has been in the press.

QUESTION: Would you go over the latest developments in the Arias Plan for Mr. McHugh?

ANSWER: Cerezo is telling Managua what it wants to hear. The Hondurans are the most cautious. They and the Salvadorans continue to criticize the plan. The Nicaraguans want it rolled into the Contadora plan. There is some chance that Nicaragua would go along with the Arias plan as it is presently formulated.

QUESTION: What is the status of the military airport at Punta Huete, Nicaragua?

SECRET

25X1

SUBJECT: 28 April 1987 HPSCI Briefing

ANSWER: They have recently begun work on it again but there has been little progress. It doesn't seem that Nicaragua will get MIGs anytime soon. They do continue to request helicopters and may use the airport as a base for their expanding helicopter fleet.

Dwyer

QUESTION: What's next after the PLO National Council?

ANSWER: Notably, what won't happen. There will be little progress on peace negotiations and PLO relations will deteriorate with Jordan and Egypt. Perhaps intra-Arab and Arab-Israeli terrorism will marginally increase and terrorism in Europe may decline.

QUESTION: What about the interplay between the Executive Committee of the Council and Libya?

ANSWER: In the past, radical groups shifted alliances between Syria and Libya. Now these groups are estranged from Syria, so relations with Libyans will improve.

25X1

McHugh

QUESTION: Cerezo wants Nicaragua to participate in the Arias Plan, etc. Does Cerezo's position have any implication for the military in Guatemala? Any signs he is having problems with the military?

ANSWER: We have not seen the military turn any screws on Cerezo. But he has not pressed talks with domestic insurgents. Domestic politics tend to explain his

SECRET

25X1

SUBJECT: 28 April 1987 HPSCI Briefing

position. He wants Guatemala to be a more important player in Central America. Nonetheless, he does have to be a bit careful in pressing other Central America countries. Guatemala has the advantage of not having a common border with Nicaragua. Cerezo knows that Guatemalan insurgents use Nicaragua as a base for communications.

QUESTION: Was an American pilot shot down in Angola?

ANSWER: I don't know. Will get back to you on this.

Kennelly

No questions.

Hyde

QUESTION: Is the court system in South Africa independent of the Government?

ANSWER: Yes.

QUESTION: Are there any restrictions on South Africans who try to leave the country?

ANSWER: Blacks are restricted.

QUESTION: How?

ANSWER: They have some problems with getting passports. Will get back to you with specifics.

QUESTION: What are El Salvador's and Honduras' criticisms of the Arias Plan?

ANSWER: The handout I gave you helps answer that question. The major problem is the cease fire requirements. The Salvadorans want a political solution worked out first. Both countries face problems that the Arias Plan is very ambiguous about. They worry that the agreement hasn't adequately addressed the security problem in Central America.

QUESTION: Has failure to throw a bone to Arafat pushed him to be more radical?

ANSWER: The US Government has hoped the PLO would gradually move to a more positive

SECRET

25X1

SUBJECT: 28 April 1987 HPSCI Briefing

line. But he has no major Palestian support for any compromises. Since he refuses to accept U.N. 242 we have excluded him from the peace process.

QUESTION: Are you saying there is no hope that the PLO will be useful in the peace process?

ANSWER: Probably that is true. There is little likelihood that the Golan Heights would be returned. There is some chance that West Bank might go back.

McHugh

QUESTION: I believe West Bank Palestinians support Arafat, but other Palestinians don't.

ANSWER: I would say that West Bank Palestinians are more politicized. Other Palestinians tend to be less politicized, thus less conspicuous in their support for Arafat or the PLO.

Stokes

25X1

Daniel

QUESTION: What role is Libya playing in Central America?

ANSWER: They are there, but not in a notable way.

25X1

Page Denied